

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 15, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 9-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,397,552 to Weigold et al in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,617,382 to Natsis et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner states that **bifurcation and redirection of gases are essentially inseparable processes**. Office Action page 3. These processes are not equivalent because they produce different results. A gas can be mixed more efficiently in a shorter space by bifurcating the gas flow through multiple paths rather than redirecting through a single opening. Please see attached affidavit to this effect. The fact that transmitting gas through a multi-channel baffle produces different results than transmission (redirection) through a single channel is a clear indication that these processes are not “inseparable” but rather unique.

The Examiner further states, “the apparatus of Weigold modified by Natsis would **necessarily permit such bifurcation and redirection ...**”. Office Action page 3. The fact that a device could “permit” additional features does not rise to the standard of teaching those features as required under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The Examiner appears to be relying on impermissible hindsight to state that the features of the present invention could easily be added to the device taught by Weigold and Natsis therefore rendering it obvious. This form of hindsight deductive analysis is not proper and is not sufficient for establishing obviousness.

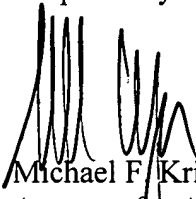
Applicants assert that the proposed combination fails to teach the all of the claim limitations included in the claims and therefore fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and the application be placed in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the amendments made herein do not add new matter and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

DATED this 19 day of September, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Affidavit by Minken Patrick Yeh

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